



ANGUS S. KING, JR.
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
16 EDISON DRIVE
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04330

MICHAEL F. KELLY
COMMISSIONER

JAY BRADSHAW, EMT-P
DIRECTOR

Board of EMS Meeting
Maine EMS Conference Room
March 3, 1999
MINUTES

Members Present: J. McKenney (Chair), L. Bouchard (Chair-elect), R. Chagrasulis (ex-officio), C. Little, R. Doughty, W. Dunwoody, S. Leach, J. Defillip, S. Hayes, C. Pillsbury, P. DiPietrantonio, P. Stevens, W. Werts, D. Dane, G. Murray, O. Cassidy

Regional Coordinators: J. LeBrun, D. Carroll

Staff: J. Bradshaw, D. Corning, D. White, W. Montejo

1. Introductions

Oden Cassidy of Holden was introduced to the Board. Mr. Cassidy was appointed to the Board by Governor King to serve as a public representative and was welcomed by the Chair. Those present introduced themselves.

2. Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the February 3, 1999, Board meeting as revised. (Dunwoody; second by Little). Carried.

3. Old Business

A. Strategic Planning Draft Presentation

J. Bradshaw distributed copies of the most recent draft of the MEMS Strategic Plan. This Plan was drafted by the Operations Team after the Board discussed and approved the Goals and Objectives. Due to the detail of the document, Jay recommended that Board members review this draft and that this be tabled until the next meeting.

MOTION: To table further discussion on the MEMS Strategic Plan until the April 7, meeting. (Hayes; second by Leach). Unanimous

B. Unfinished Business

None at this time.

C. Other

None at this time.

4. New Business

A. Ops Team/Committee Action Items

Jay reported that the Ops Team met on Tuesday, February 2, but that there were no action items requiring Board action at this time.

B. Investigations Committee Action Items

None at this time.

C. Investigations Task Force Report

W. Werts reported that the Investigations Task Force met before today's Board meeting and suggested that the Investigations Committee be expanded to five (5) members and that the Committee represent a cross-section of the Board.

MOTION: To have the Investigation Committee consist of five (5) Board members to be appointed by the Chair. (Hayes; second by Doughty). Unanimous

Wayne also asked if it was possible to move the start of the Board meeting to 9:30 to enable the Task Force to meet for an hour prior to the Board meeting.

Consensus was that this was an acceptable change and that effective with the April meeting, future Board meetings will begin at 9:30 AM.

D. Legislation Update

Jay distributed copies of the EMS Legislative Summary. This Summary is updated as new information becomes available (typically weekly) and is distributed to interested persons via e-mail. This is also uploaded to the MEMS Web Page whenever an update is available.

Jay also briefly reviewed the highlights of the bills listed. Considerable discussion took place regarding LD 678 that would require AVOC training for providers who routinely operate an ambulance in emergency mode or when carrying a patient. One of the issues that has surfaced is the paucity of data regarding ambulance crashes in Maine.

MOTION: Pursue working to develop a data base on ambulance crashes. (Hayes; second by Leach). Unanimous.

E. Awards Committee

B. Dunwoody reminded members that the Committee will be meeting after today's meeting to review the nominations and develop recommendations for action at the next Board meeting.

F. Other

None at this time.

5. Staff Report

A. Activities

Jay reported that the contract with Crisis Management International has been approved and signed. CMI was the successful vendor following an RFP for development of a program to instruct law enforcement and EMS personnel about Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, Critical Incident Stress Management, and Interpersonal Communication Skills. It is anticipated that the instructor training program will take place in early summer.

CMI will be conducting the instructor program and providing instructional material to be used in provider training classes. Funding for this project came from the 118th Legislature in response to a Resolve passed and signed by Governor King.

B. MDPB

Dr. Chagrasulis reported that the MDPB did not meet in February. At the March 17 meeting, the MDPB will conduct its final review of the latest version of the EMS Protocols. Many of these are updates of existing protocols with minor changes. A new protocol is being proposed to assist in the early identification of stroke patients.

The MDPB will also conduct a final review of the Air Ambulance Protocols that were developed by and for LifeFlight of Maine flight nurse/flight paramedics. The MDPB gave initial approval to these Protocols in October 1998, and directed that the Education Committee review the training curricula and provide a summary report back to the MDPB before going to the Board for final action.

C. Other

1. Meeting with Commissioner Kelly

J. McKenney reported that he met with the Commissioner in January to introduce himself, to discuss the Board's evaluation of the Director, and to hear about any concerns the Commissioner may have about EMS.

Jim reported that from the Commissioner's perspective, things seemed to be going well with MEMS. He concurred with the Board's evaluation and explained the need to align the EMS Director's salary with that of other DPS Bureau Directors. Jim said there were no concerns at this time.

2. Trauma Advisory Committee (TAC) membership

Jay reported that there have been three names submitted by the Maine Hospital Association for consideration of appointment by the Board to the TAC. The names are: Barbara Whitehead, MaineGeneral Medical Center; Lois Skillings, Mid Coast Hospital; and Margaret Hourigan, Stephens Memorial Hospital.

MOTION: To approve the recommendation submitted by the Maine Hospital Association and to appoint Barbara Whitehead, Lois Skillings, and Margaret Hourigan to the Trauma Advisory Committee. (Bouchard; second by Stevens). Unanimous.

6. Other

Dr. DiPietrantonio discussed the potential impact of any Y2K issues on emergency departments. He referred to articles reminding emergency departments that in the event of any real or perceived Y2K issues, hospitals are viewed as safe places to go because they are capable of operating independent of outside resources.

Bill Dunwoody distributed copies of information assembled by the Maine Ambulance Association regarding the impact of changes that HCFA is making with regard to physician approval for transfers and the changes in the definition of medical necessity. The MAA is encouraging people to write to the Congressional delegation requesting their assistance. Additional information is available at the MAA web page: <www.the-maa.org>

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM